

REMARKS

Claims 1, 7-9, 15-17, 21-22 and 26 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 7, 9, 15, 17, 21, 22 and 26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Reiter et al (US patent No. 5,752,243, hereinafter "Reiter") in view of Bumbulis (US patent application No. 2003/0204513, hereinafter "Bumbulis") and further in view of Burnett (US patent application publication No. 2002/0152226, hereinafter "Burnett"). Claims 8 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Reiter in view of Bumbulis and further in view of Burnett and further in view of Cheng et al. (US patent No. 5,204,958, hereinafter "Cheng") and further in view of Beyer et al. (US patent application publication No. 2006/0173927, hereinafter "Beyer").

INTERVIEW SUMMARY

On November 14, 2007, Examiners Cam Troung and Dennis Myint and Applicants' undersigned representative, Mr. Eiferman, participated in a telephonic interview. During the interview, Mr. Eiferman proposed the claim amendments herein. Examiners Cam Troung and Dennis Myint stated that the claim amendments and remarks herein appeared to overcome the rejections in the final Office Action.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1, 7, 9, 15, 17, 21, 22 and 26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Reiter in view of Bumbulis and further in view of Burnett. Claims 8 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Reiter in view of Bumbulis and further in view of Burnett and further in view of Cheng and further in view of Beyer.

Independent claims 1, 9, 17 and 22 have been amended in order to further clarify the claim language. Independent claim 1 now recites in part: **"wherein the excised range of consecutive keys satisfy a range query $"Y/" \leq v \leq "Y/\infty"$, wherein "Y" represents the element of the file system to be renamed, "v" represents keys in the B-tree, and " ∞ " represents a special character defined to be greater than all characters in a set of**

alphanumeric symbols used for creating the plurality of keys, and wherein the excising further comprises finding a root node of the extracted tree by traversing the original B-tree and stopping at a node in the original B-tree that has one or more keys that satisfy the range query, moving down from the node along two separate paths including a first path that follows “Y/” and a second path that follows “Y/∞”, and continuing until reaching a leaf node along each of the two paths.” Support for this amendment can be found in the specification, for example, starting at paragraph [0033] through paragraph [0042]. The main cited Reiter reference which is concerned with storing multidimensional data as well as the other cited references fail to teach or suggest, as for example now recited in claim 1, a method of renaming a range of keys in a B-tree including the excising technique which is now claimed and highlighted above. It is believed that none of the cited references taken individually or in combination teach or suggest a method as now claimed in claim 1 that provides for a method of modifying a B-tree in connection with the operation of renaming keys in the B-tree. The other independent claims 9, 17 and 22 have been amended in somewhat similar fashion. Given this, it is believed that independent claims 1, 9, 17 and 22 are in condition for allowance. Dependent claims 7-8, 15-16, 21 and 26 which add further nonobvious features to their respective independent claims are also believed to be in condition for allowance.

DOCKET NO.: 307730.01 / MSFT-5036
Application No.: 10/823,870
Office Action Dated: August 20, 2007

**PATENT
REPLY FILED UNDER EXPEDITED
PROCEDURE PURSUANT TO
37 CFR § 1.116**

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments and remarks, applicant respectfully submits that the present application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Date: November 20, 2007

/Kenneth R. Eiferman/

Kenneth R. Eiferman
Registration No. 51,647

Woodcock Washburn LLP
Cira Centre
2929 Arch Street, 12th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19104-2891
Telephone: (215) 568-3100
Facsimile: (215) 568-3439